United Nations A/C.2/54/L.20

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
1 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Item 99 (a)
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Guyana*: draft resolution

Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and the continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and of the International Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolution 45/234 of 21 December 1990, 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993, 49/92 of 19 December 1994, 51/173 of 16 December 1996 and 53/178 of 15 December 1998 on the implementation of the Declaration and Strategy, and the Agenda for Development,

Recalling also the results, as agreed, of all the major United nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China

[1] A/54/389.

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2. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy in the remaining year of the 1990s, in collaboration with, *inter alia*, efforts taken in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s[2] and its implementing arm, the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;[3]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant international organizations, to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration at its fifty-fifth session an analytic report containing a final evaluation of the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and the Strategy, including the progress achieved and the constraints encountered therein;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all concerned organs and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Committee on Development Policy, to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, with the aim of giving further impetus to international cooperation for development and of monitoring long-term trends in the global economy as well as the attainment of internationally agreed targets, taking into account:

(a) The dynamic changes in the world economy as a result of globalization, interdependence and liberalization and the rapid advances in science and technology;

(b) The outcome, *inter alia*, of the Agenda for Development,[4] the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held during the current decade, and any other relevant ongoing processes on international cooperation for development;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to initiate consultations with all Member States with the view to establishing the modalities for the consideration and conclusion of the proposal of the Secretary-General called for in paragraph 4 above at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled, "Sustainable development and international cooperation: implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade".

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[2] Resolution 46/151, annex.

[3] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990* (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

[4] Resolution 51/240, annex.

United Nations A/C.2/54/L.21

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
3 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 99 (c)
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: women in development

Guyana:* draft resolution

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/195 of 18 December 1997 and all other Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, and also the resolutions and the agreed conclusions[1] adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

Reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of recent major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling the ministerial communiqué of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women",[3]

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development and that investing in the development of women has a multiplier effect in this regard,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.1, agreed conclusions 1997/3.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3), chap. III, para. 23.

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Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the rapid development of information technology and other new technologies presents both opportunities and challenges to women, in particular in developing countries,

Concerned that the continued discrimination against women, and the denial or lack of equal rights and access to, *inter alia*, education and training, employment opportunities, capital, technology and other areas of production hinder them from achieving their full potential,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Aware that, although globalization and liberalization processes may have created employment opportunities for women in some countries, they have made women in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, more vulnerable to increased economic volatility, job insecurity and loss of livelihood,

Recognizing that in the field of agriculture women have been disproportionately affected by the negative effects of market liberalization, since the opening of local markets to cheaper imports and the removal of agricultural subsidies have in general led to the loss of employment among small-scale farmers who are more likely to be women than men,

Emphasizing the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to ensuring the access of rural women to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to credit by women,

Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of entrepreneurship and employment for women in developing countries and that data collection on its important contribution should be improved,

Expressing its concern about the poor representation of women in economic decision-making and stressing the importance of inculcating a gender perspective in policy formulation and implementation,

Recognizing that an increase in paid employment may not always mean empowerment for women since, in general, the burden of household work and primary responsibility of women for childcare in many instances give rise to an onerous double working day for most women,

Stressing the need for a family-friendly work environment, including appropriate working hours, affordable childcare and flexible working hours, and emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility between women and men for the achievement of gender equality,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the 1999 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Globalization, Gender and Work;[4]

2. *Calls* for the speedy and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action[2] and the relevant provisions contained in the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences and summits and, in this regard, expresses the hope that the special session of the General Assembly on questions and issues related to women scheduled for the year 2000 can take tangible and significant steps to enhance the effective participation of women in development;

3. *Stresses* that a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life is necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

4. *Urges* Governments to develop and promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all aspects of policy-making, and also to develop national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

5. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, technology and economic resources, to increase and improve access to credit facilities, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

6. *Recognizes* the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, empowerment of women and generation of employment and, in this regard, encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including the support of international financial institutions;

7. *Stresses* the need for assistance that would enable women in developing countries to have full access to and use of new technologies, including information technologies, for their empowerment;

8. *Urges* Governments to design and revise laws that would ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right of inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures that would give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, access to markets and information;

9. *Requests* Governments to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and policy formulation and implementation at all levels so that their priorities can be adequately reflected in national policy;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, *inter alia*, through legislation, family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments and also to promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

11. *Stresses* the need for Governments and employers to implement policies aimed at ensuring stability and security of work and to put in place social insurance policies that cover temporary, part-time, informal sector and home workers, a majority of whom are women;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to implement policies to ensure the stabilization of capital flows in order to prevent excess volatility and economic disruption which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, and to enhance trade

[4] A/54/227.

opportunities for developing countries in order to improve the economic conditions of women;

13. *Urges* the international community, the United Nations system and relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development;

14. *Calls upon* developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries, so as to enable the developing countries to implement strategies to eradicate poverty, promote productive employment and achieve gender equality;

15. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;[5]

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Women in development".

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[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* and addendum (A/52/3/Rev.1 and Add.1), chap. IV.A, para. 4.

United Nations A/C.2/54/L.22

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 100 (a)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Canada, New Zealand, Russian Federation and Turkey: draft resolution

Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[1] adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

Recalling also its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, entitled "International institutional arrangements related to environment and development", and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements",

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,[2]

Taking note of decision 20/28, entitled "Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs", adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

Emphasizing that policy decisions under environmental and environment-related conventions are taken by the respective conferences of the parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of these conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

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[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] A/54/468.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25), annex.

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Taking note with appreciation of the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of these conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to and permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the Convention on Biological Diversity[5] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[6] to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and recognizes in this regard the potential key role of the environmental management group, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

3. *Stresses* the need to strengthen further the cooperation among the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations with a view to facilitating progress in implementation of the conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

(a) Encouraging greater synergy and complementarity of activities undertaken to implement the commitments under various conventions;

(b) Identifying possible activities with potential multiple benefits and bringing them to the attention of parties and conferences of the parties in order to promote them;

(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

(d) Encouraging further scientific analyses carried out by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions and their subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) Strengthening the capacity of parties to the conventions to participate effectively in the work of the conferences of the parties and other treaty bodies;

(f) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective information exchange, enhanced awareness-raising, harmonization of national reporting and formulation of integrated national strategies for sustainable development;

(g) Facilitating a more integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national level;

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[4] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[5] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[6] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

(h) Bringing relevant issues to the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for consideration by Member States and formulation of agreed policy recommendations with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare, on an annual basis, a report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution as well as on areas requiring further consideration by the General Assembly;

5. *Decides* to include in its agenda, starting from its fifty-fifth session, a sub-item entitled "Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions" under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", with a view to promoting a more integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of these conventions.

United Nations A/C.2/54/L.23

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Item 100 (f)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Guyana:* draft resolution

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998,

Recognizing that small island developing States face special challenges and vulnerabilities of both an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling the Declaration[1] and review document[2] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Noting the significant efforts being made at the national and regional levels and the need for them to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

Bearing in mind the over three hundred projects which were presented for financing within the context of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

* On behalf of the Group of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[2] Ibid.

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Development of Small Island Developing States[3] at the small island developing States donors meeting held from 24 to 26 February 1999,

1. *Reiterates* the significance of the effective implementation of the Declaration[1] and review document[2] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to the various organs of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, taking into account the areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for further implementation and effective follow-up;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the regional commissions and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to take into account the areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[3]

4. *Further calls upon* all stakeholders, in particular local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for the provision of adequate resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant international organizations to work towards an early conclusion of their work on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, and urges the Committee on Development Policy to review the criteria of least developed countries for consideration and decision by the General Assembly;

7. *Calls on* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to give substantive consideration in its work to the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, including in its preparations for UNCTAD X;

8. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to integrate into its current and future work programme matters relating to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the report of the General Assembly on its twenty-second special session;[4]

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of future sessions, under the item entitled "Environmental and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at future sessions a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-22/__).

United Nations A/C.2/54/L.24

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1999/7 of 26 July 1999, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly, for consideration with a view to their adoption, the draft guidelines for consumer protection expanded to include sustainable consumption, as contained in the annex.

99-33168 (E) 081199

Annex

United Nations guidelines for consumer protection (as expanded in 1999)

I. Objectives

1. Taking into account the interests and needs of consumers in all countries, particularly those in developing countries; recognizing that consumers often face imbalances in economic terms, educational levels and bargaining power; and bearing in mind that consumers should have the right of access to non-hazardous products, as well as the right to promote just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection, these guidelines for consumer protection have the following objectives:

(a) To assist countries in achieving or maintaining adequate protection for their population as consumers;

(b) To facilitate production and distribution patterns responsive to the needs and desires of consumers;

(c) To encourage high levels of ethical conduct for those engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services to consumers;

(d) To assist countries in curbing abusive business practices by all enterprises at the national and international levels which adversely affect consumers;

(e) To facilitate the development of independent consumer groups;

(f) To further international cooperation in the field of consumer protection;

(g) To encourage the development of market conditions which provide consumers with greater choice at lower prices;

(h) To promote sustainable consumption.

II. General principles

2. Governments should develop or maintain a strong consumer protection policy, taking into account the guidelines set out below and relevant international agreements. In so doing, each Government should set its own priorities for the protection of consumers in accordance with the economic, social and environmental circumstances of the country and the needs of its population, bearing in mind the costs and benefits of proposed measures.

3. The legitimate needs which the guidelines are intended to meet are the following:

(a) The protection of consumers from hazards to their health and safety;

(b) The promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers;

(c) Access of consumers to adequate information to enable them to make informed choices according to individual wishes and needs;

(d) Consumer education, including education on the environmental, social and economic impacts of consumer choice;

(e) Availability of effective consumer redress;

(f) Freedom to form consumer and other relevant groups or organizations and the opportunity of such organizations to present their views in decision-making processes affecting them;

(g) The promotion of sustainable consumption patterns.

4. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, are the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment. All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns; developed countries should take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption patterns; developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, having due regard to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The special situation and needs of developing countries in this regard should be fully taken into account.

5. Policies for promoting sustainable consumption should take into account the goals of eradicating poverty, satisfying the basic human needs of all members of society, and reducing inequality within and between countries.

6. Governments should provide or maintain adequate infrastructure to develop, implement and monitor consumer protection policies. Special care should be taken to ensure that measures for consumer protection are implemented for the benefit of all sectors of the population, particularly the rural population and people living in poverty.

7. All enterprises should obey the relevant laws and regulations of the countries in which they do business. They should also conform to the appropriate provisions of international standards for consumer protection to which the competent authorities of the country in question have agreed. (Hereinafter, references to international standards in the guidelines should be viewed in the context of this paragraph.)

8. The potential positive role of universities and public and private enterprises in research should be considered when developing consumer protection policies.

III. Guidelines

9. The following guidelines should apply both to home-produced goods and services and to imports.

10. In applying any procedures or regulations for consumer protection, due regard should be given to ensuring that they do not become barriers to international trade and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

A. Physical safety

11. Governments should adopt or encourage the adoption of appropriate measures, including legal systems, safety regulations, national or international standards, voluntary standards and the maintenance of safety records to ensure that products are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use.

12. Appropriate policies should ensure that goods produced by manufacturers are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use. Those responsible for bringing goods to the market, in particular suppliers, exporters, importers, retailers and the like (hereinafter referred to as "distributors"), should ensure that while in their care these goods are not rendered unsafe through improper handling or storage and that while in their care they do not become hazardous through improper handling or storage. Consumers should be

instructed in the proper use of goods and should be informed of the risks involved in intended or normally foreseeable use. Vital safety information should be conveyed to consumers by internationally understandable symbols wherever possible.

13. Appropriate policies should ensure that if manufacturers or distributors become aware of unforeseen hazards after products are placed on the market, they should notify the relevant authorities and, as appropriate, the public without delay. Governments should also consider ways of ensuring that consumers are properly informed of such hazards.

14. Governments should, where appropriate, adopt policies under which, if a product is found to be seriously defective and/or to constitute a substantial and severe hazard even when properly used, manufacturers and/or distributors should recall it and replace or modify it, or substitute another product for it; if it is not possible to do this within a reasonable period of time, the consumer should be adequately compensated.

B. Promotion and protection of consumers' economic interests

15. Government policies should seek to enable consumers to obtain optimum benefit from their economic resources. They should also seek to achieve the goals of satisfactory production and performance standards, adequate distribution methods, fair business practices, informative marketing and effective protection against practices which could adversely affect the economic interests of consumers and the exercise of choice in the market place.

16. Governments should intensify their efforts to prevent practices which are damaging to the economic interests of consumers through ensuring that manufacturers, distributors and others involved in the provision of goods and services adhere to established laws and mandatory standards. Consumer organizations should be encouraged to monitor adverse practices, such as the adulteration of foods, false or misleading claims in marketing and service frauds.

17. Governments should develop, strengthen or maintain, as the case may be, measures relating to the control of restrictive and other abusive business practices which may be harmful to consumers, including means for the enforcement of such measures. In this connection, Governments should be guided by their commitment to the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/63 of 5 December 1980.

18. Governments should adopt or maintain policies that make clear the responsibility of the producer to ensure that goods meet reasonable demands of durability, utility and reliability, and are suited to the purpose for which they are intended, and that the seller should see that these requirements are met. Similar policies should apply to the provision of services.

19. Governments should encourage fair and effective competition in order to provide consumers with the greatest range of choice among products and services at the lowest cost.

20. Governments should, where appropriate, see to it that manufacturers and/or retailers ensure adequate availability of reliable after-sales service and spare parts.

21. Consumers should be protected from such contractual abuses as one-sided standard contracts, exclusion of essential rights in contracts and unconscionable conditions of credit by sellers.

22. Promotional marketing and sales practices should be guided by the principle of fair treatment of consumers and should meet legal requirements. This requires the provision of the information necessary to enable consumers to take informed and independent decisions, as well as measures to ensure that the information provided is accurate.

23. Governments should encourage all concerned to participate in the free flow of accurate information on all aspects of consumer products.

24. Consumer access to accurate information about the environmental impact of products and services should be encouraged through such means as product profiles, environmental reports by industry, information centres for consumers, voluntary and transparent eco-labelling programmes and product information hotlines.

25. Governments, in close collaboration with manufacturers, distributors and consumer organizations, should take measures regarding misleading environmental claims or information in advertising and other marketing activities. The development of appropriate advertising codes and standards for the regulation and verification of environmental claims should be encouraged.

26. Governments should, within their own national context, encourage the formulation and implementation by business, in cooperation with consumer organizations, of codes of marketing and other business practices to ensure adequate consumer protection. Voluntary agreements may also be established jointly by business, consumer organizations and other interested parties. These codes should receive adequate publicity.

27. Governments should regularly review legislation pertaining to weights and measures and assess the adequacy of the machinery for its enforcement.

C. Standards for the safety and quality of consumer goods and services

28. Governments should, as appropriate, formulate or promote the elaboration and implementation of standards, voluntary and other, at the national and international levels for the safety and quality of goods and services and give them appropriate publicity. National standards and regulations for product safety and quality should be reviewed from time to time, in order to ensure that they conform, where possible, to generally accepted international standards.

29. Where a standard lower than the generally accepted international standard is being applied because of local economic conditions, every effort should be made to raise that standard as soon as possible.

30. Governments should encourage and ensure the availability of facilities to test and certify the safety, quality and performance of essential consumer goods and services.

D. Distribution facilities for essential consumer goods and services

31. Governments should, where appropriate, consider:

(a) Adopting or maintaining policies to ensure the efficient distribution of goods and services to consumers; where appropriate, specific policies should be considered to ensure the distribution of essential goods and services where this distribution is endangered, as could be the case particularly in rural areas. Such policies could include assistance for the creation of adequate storage and retail facilities in rural centres, incentives for consumer

self-help and better control of the conditions under which essential goods and services are provided in rural areas;

(b) Encouraging the establishment of consumer cooperatives and related trading activities, as well as information about them, especially in rural areas.

E. Measures enabling consumers to obtain redress

32. Governments should establish or maintain legal and/or administrative measures to enable consumers or, as appropriate, relevant organizations to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, inexpensive and accessible. Such procedures should take particular account of the needs of low-income consumers.

33. Governments should encourage all enterprises to resolve consumer disputes in a fair, expeditious and informal manner, and to establish voluntary mechanisms, including advisory services and informal complaints procedures, which can provide assistance to consumers.

34. Information on available redress and other dispute-resolving procedures should be made available to consumers.

F. Education and information programmes

35. Governments should develop or encourage the development of general consumer education and information programmes, including information on the environmental impacts of consumer choices and behaviour and the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, bearing in mind the cultural traditions of the people concerned. The aim of such programmes should be to enable people to act as discriminating consumers, capable of making an informed choice of goods and services, and conscious of their rights and responsibilities. In developing such programmes, special attention should be given to the needs of disadvantaged consumers, in both rural and urban areas, including low-income consumers and those with low or non-existent literacy levels. Consumer groups, business and other relevant organizations of civil society should be involved in these educational efforts.

36. Consumer education should, where appropriate, become an integral part of the basic curriculum of the educational system, preferably as a component of existing subjects.

37. Consumer education and information programmes should cover such important aspects of consumer protection as the following:

(a) Health, nutrition, prevention of food-borne diseases and food adulteration;

(b) Product hazards;

(c) Product labelling;

(d) Relevant legislation, how to obtain redress, and agencies and organizations for consumer protection;

(e) Information on weights and measures, prices, quality, credit conditions and availability of basic necessities;

(f) Environmental protection;

(g) Efficient use of materials, energy and water.

38. Governments should encourage consumer organizations and other interested groups, including the media, to undertake education and information programmes, including on the environmental impacts of consumption patterns and on the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, particularly for the benefit of low-income consumer groups in rural and urban areas.

39. Business should, where appropriate, undertake or participate in factual and relevant consumer education and information programmes.

40. Bearing in mind the need to reach rural consumers and illiterate consumers, Governments should, as appropriate, develop or encourage the development of consumer information programmes in the mass media.

41. Governments should organize or encourage training programmes for educators, mass media professionals and consumer advisers, to enable them to participate in carrying out consumer information and education programmes.

G. Promotion of sustainable consumption

42. Sustainable consumption includes meeting the needs of present and future generations for goods and services in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

43. Responsibility for sustainable consumption is shared by all members and organizations of society, with informed consumers, Government, business, labour organizations, and consumer and environmental organizations playing particularly important roles. Informed consumers have an essential role in promoting consumption that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, including through the effects of their choices on producers. Governments should promote the development and implementation of policies for sustainable consumption and the integration of those policies with other public policies. Government policy-making should be conducted in consultation with business, consumer and environmental organizations, and other concerned groups. Business has a responsibility for promoting sustainable consumption through the design, production and distribution of goods and services. Consumer and environmental organizations have a responsibility for promoting public participation and debate on sustainable consumption, for informing consumers, and for working with Government and business towards sustainable consumption.

44. Governments, in partnership with business and relevant organizations of civil society, should develop and implement strategies that promote sustainable consumption through a mix of policies that could include regulations; economic and social instruments; sectoral policies in such areas as land use, transport, energy and housing; information programmes to raise awareness of the impact of consumption patterns; removal of subsidies that promote unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and promotion of sector-specific environmental-management best practices.

45. Governments should encourage the design, development and use of products and services that are safe and energy and resource efficient, considering their full life-cycle impacts. Governments should encourage recycling programmes that encourage consumers to both recycle wastes and purchase recycled products.

46. Governments should promote the development and use of national and international environmental health and safety standards for products and services; such standards should not result in disguised barriers to trade.

47. Governments should encourage impartial environmental testing of products.

48. Governments should safely manage environmentally harmful uses of substances and encourage the development of environmentally sound alternatives for such uses. New potentially hazardous substances should be evaluated on a scientific basis for their long-term environmental impact prior to distribution.

49. Governments should promote awareness of the health-related benefits of sustainable consumption and production patterns, bearing in mind both direct effects on individual health and collective effects through environmental protection.

50. Governments, in partnership with the private sector and other relevant organizations, should encourage the transformation of unsustainable consumption patterns through the development and use of new environmentally sound products and services and new technologies, including information and communication technologies, that can meet consumer needs while reducing pollution and depletion of natural resources.

51. Governments are encouraged to create or strengthen effective regulatory mechanisms for the protection of consumers, including aspects of sustainable consumption.

52. Governments should consider a range of economic instruments, such as fiscal instruments and internalization of environmental costs, to promote sustainable consumption, taking into account social needs, the need for disincentives for unsustainable practices and incentives for more sustainable practices, while avoiding potential negative effects for market access, in particular for developing countries.

53. Governments, in cooperation with business and other relevant groups, should develop indicators, methodologies and databases for measuring progress towards sustainable consumption at all levels. This information should be publicly available.

54. Governments and international agencies should take the lead in introducing sustainable practices in their own operations, in particular through their procurement policies. Government procurement, as appropriate, should encourage development and use of environmentally sound products and services.

55. Governments and other relevant organizations should promote research on consumer behaviour related to environmental damage in order to identify ways to make consumption patterns more sustainable.

H. Measures relating to specific areas

56. In advancing consumer interests, particularly in developing countries, Governments should, where appropriate, give priority to areas of essential concern for the health of the consumer, such as food, water and pharmaceuticals. Policies should be adopted or maintained for product quality control, adequate and secure distribution facilities, standardized international labelling and information, as well as education and research programmes in these areas. Government guidelines in regard to specific areas should be developed in the context of the provisions of this document.

Food

57. When formulating national policies and plans with regard to food, Governments should take into account the need of all consumers for food security, and should support and, as far as possible, adopt standards from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius or, in their absence, other

generally accepted international food standards. Governments should maintain, develop or improve food safety measures, including, *inter alia*, safety criteria, food standards and dietary requirements and effective monitoring, inspection and evaluation mechanisms.

58. Governments should promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices, conservation of biodiversity, and protection of soil and water, taking into account traditional knowledge.

Water

59. Governments should, within the goals and targets set for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, formulate, maintain or strengthen national policies to improve the supply, distribution and quality of water for drinking. Due regard should be paid to the choice of appropriate levels of service, quality and technology, the need for education programmes and the importance of community participation.

60. Governments should assign high priority to the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes concerning the multiple uses of water, taking into account the importance of water for sustainable development in general and its finite character as a resource.

Pharmaceuticals

61. Governments should develop or maintain adequate standards, provisions and appropriate regulatory systems for ensuring the quality and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals through integrated national drug policies which could address, *inter alia*, procurement, distribution, production, licensing arrangements, registration systems and the availability of reliable information on pharmaceuticals. In so doing, Governments should take special account of the work and recommendations of the World Health Organization on pharmaceuticals. For relevant products, the use of that organization's Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce and other international information systems on pharmaceuticals should be encouraged. Measures should also be taken, as appropriate, to promote the use of international non-proprietary names (INNs) for drugs, drawing on the work done by the World Health Organization.

62. In addition to the priority areas indicated above, Governments should adopt appropriate measures in other areas, such as pesticides and chemicals, in regard, where relevant, to their use, production and storage, taking into account such relevant health and environmental information as Governments may require producers to provide and include in the labelling of products.

IV. International cooperation

63. Governments should, especially in a regional or subregional context:

(a) Develop, review, maintain or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms for the exchange of information on national policies and measures in the field of consumer protection;

(b) Cooperate or encourage cooperation in the implementation of consumer protection policies to achieve greater results within existing resources. Examples of such cooperation could be collaboration in the setting up or joint use of testing facilities, common testing procedures, exchange of consumer information and education programmes, joint training programmes and joint elaboration of regulations;

(c) Cooperate to improve the conditions under which essential goods are offered to consumers, giving due regard to both price and quality. Such cooperation could include joint procurement of essential goods, exchange of information on different procurement possibilities and agreements on regional product specifications.

64. Governments should develop or strengthen information links regarding products which have been banned, withdrawn or severely restricted in order to enable other importing countries to protect themselves adequately against the harmful effects of such products.

65. Governments should work to ensure that the quality of products, and information relating to such products, does not vary from country to country in a way that would have detrimental effects on consumers.

66. To promote sustainable consumption, Governments, international bodies and business should work together to develop, transfer and disseminate environmentally sound technologies, including through appropriate financial support from developed countries, and to devise new and innovative mechanisms for financing their transfer among all countries, in particular to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

67. Governments and international organizations, as appropriate, should promote and facilitate capacity-building in the area of sustainable consumption, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In particular, Governments should also facilitate cooperation among consumer groups and other relevant organizations of civil society, with the aim of strengthening capacity in this area.

68. Governments and international bodies, as appropriate, should promote programmes relating to consumer education and information.

69. Governments should work to ensure that policies and measures for consumer protection are implemented with due regard to their not becoming barriers to international trade, and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

United Nations A/C.2/54/L.25

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 97 (a)
Macroeconomic policy questions: high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Guyana:* draft resolution

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/179 of 18 December 1997 and 53/173 of 15 December 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development,[1]

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 of 29 July 1999 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development,[1] which provides the framework and reference for the scope, agenda and form of the final event, as well as the preparatory process;

2. *Decides* to convene a high-level International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in the year 2001;

3. *Reiterates* that the preparatory process and the International Conference should involve the participation of all relevant stakeholders;

4. *Invites* Member States to consider offering to host the International Conference on Financing for Development;

5. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee to carry out the substantive preparations for the high-level International Conference;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 28* (A/54/28).

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6. *Also decides* to constitute a Bureau, with equitable representation from each region, to be presided by two Co-Chairmen;

7. *Further decides* that the first organizational session of the Preparatory Committee should be held no later than early February 2000 to elect the Bureau, and, in this regard, requests the President of the General Assembly to begin consultations with Member States;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Bureau to submit proposals to the Preparatory Committee at a resumed organizational session, in close consultation with Member States and all stakeholders, on the modalities of participation of the latter in the preparatory process and the International Conference, including within the context of paragraph 20 of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development and paragraphs 17 and 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51,

9. *Decides* that the resumed organizational session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in March/April 2000 to consider the following, on the basis of chapter IV of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development and on proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the Bureau:

(a) The timing, duration and format of the International Conference;

(b) Clarification and finalization of the agenda;

(c) Modalities of participation of institutional stakeholders, within and outside the United Nations system, notably the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and other relevant entities;

(d) Modalities of participation of other stakeholders, notably non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

(e) The programme of work of the Preparatory Committee;

10. *Also decides* that the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in May 2000;

11. *Invites* Member States to consider sending experts to participate in the resumed organizational and substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

12. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, regional banks and other relevant regional entities to provide inputs for consideration by the Preparatory Committee, beginning at its resumed organizational session;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide inputs for consideration by the Preparatory Committee, beginning at its resumed organizational session;

14. *Also requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to take into account the schedule of the Preparatory Committee and meetings of the regional commissions in assisting developing countries to prepare for substantive discussions on financing for development, including by means of regional or other meetings as well as expert group meetings;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with all Member States, to provide the Preparatory Committee and the International Conference with an adequately staffed secretariat under his authority, headed by a high-level personality, and with requisite resources, and also requests the Secretary-General to inform the Preparatory Committee at its first organizational session on the action taken in this regard;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifty session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the overall preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "International Conference on Financing for Development".